

# PSIR & GS-2 Daily Brief

**About this initiative :** Briefs, scans the best academic platforms, national newspapers & leading think tanks to pick the most relevant articles & research. It converts them into crisp, high-impact points you can directly use in your mains answers.

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Optional by  
Amit Pratap  
Singh  
| ForumIAS |



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The Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir challenge : Statesman

## Article - 2

India's next challenge- from invention to global scale : The Hindu

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A democracy safe for the World- How to fix a broken system : Foreign Affairs

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# Article - 1 : The Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir challenge

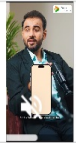


Wednesday, 24 June, 2026

The Statesman

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Opinion

## The PoJK challenge

The ongoing unrest in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) is perhaps the most serious political challenge faced by Pakistan in the territory since 1947.

ANAND KUMAR | New Delhi | June 21, 2026 8:51 am



**Context** The unrest in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not a narrow quarrel over twelve reserved assembly seats, but as a deeper revolt over representation, economic exploitation, regional identity & the dominance of Pakistan's military establishment.

## Facts

Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee - abolish 12 seats reserved in the 45-member assembly for refugees.

PoJK - own President, Prime Minister & Legislative assembly but security, foreign affairs & policy under Islamabad's influence.

JAAC (founded 2023) began over electricity and wheat distress escalated into demands for representation & autonomy.

## Analytical Crux

A movement that began over electricity bills has matured into a question of legitimacy, identity & self-rule. Pakistan's external self-determination rhetoric collides head-on with its internal denial of representation and the resource grievance supplies the economic fuel for political alienation. The security first reflex as in Balochistan and KP, suppresses the symptom while deepening the disease. It became an issue of legitimacy, self-determination, quasi-federal failure & ethnic mobilisation driven by relative deprivation.

## Verbatim Quotes

"The unrest in PoJK is a revolt from within & its implications may extend far beyond the mountains where it began."

"Above all, it is a reminder that political consent cannot be manufactured through rhetoric or enforced through coercion."

"Economic distress has exposed deeper anxieties about governance and autonomy."  
— Anand Kumar

# Article - 2 : India's next challenge- from invention to global scale

## India's next challenge — from invention to global scale

India has never lacked technological vision. Time and again, it has anticipated transformative technologies long before they became mainstream. It has built impressive scientific capabilities, developed indigenous innovations, and demonstrated remarkable ingenuity. Yet, in several critical sectors, it has struggled to convert early technological leadership into globally dominant industries.

As India embarks on ambitious missions in semiconductors, artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing and space technologies, it is worth reflecting on an important lesson from its past: invention alone is not enough. The true measure of technological success lies in scaling innovation into globally competitive enterprises.

### Ahead of its time

Consider semiconductors. India established the Semiconductor Complex Limited (SCL) in the 1970s — when semiconductors were still an emerging industry — recognising early that integrated circuits would become the foundation of the digital age. Yet, while Taiwan built TSMC and South Korea developed Samsung's semiconductor empire, India failed to translate its early lead into a globally competitive manufacturing ecosystem. The problem was not vision or scientific capability, but limited capital, inadequate scale, inconsistent policy support and an inward-looking public sector approach.

A similar story can be told about ECIL. Established in 1967, it developed indigenous computers, control systems and strategic electronics when India faced severe technology embargoes. ECIL played a vital role in building technological self-reliance. However, its focus remained on strategic requirements rather than globally competitive commercial products. As a result, scientific excellence stayed within institutions instead of creating large industrial ecosystems. The Simputer followed a similar trajectory. Conceived in 1998 by Indian technologists, it anticipated many features that would later define smartphones and tablets. Yet,



**Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**  
Executive Chairperson,  
Biocon Limited

The country must transform innovation into globally dominant technology enterprises

despite its innovation, the supporting ecosystem was absent. Venture capital, software platforms, component supply chains and consumer markets were not mature enough to help it achieve global scale. A few years later, Apple transformed personal computing through the iPhone and built one of the world's most valuable technology ecosystems. The lesson is clear: being first matters little if you cannot scale.

India has seen similar patterns elsewhere. It developed early expertise in computing, telecommunications and electronics. Yet, many pioneering initiatives remained prototypes, pilots or public-sector achievements rather than globally dominant businesses.

### Models of success

Fortunately, history also offers examples of success. India's pharmaceutical industry evolved into a globally competitive manufacturing powerhouse, making the country the pharmacy of the world and a leading vaccine producer. India also developed indigenous supercomputing capabilities through the PARAM programme. More recently, Aadhaar and UPI have shown how technology platforms designed for scale can transform a nation. Scale creates ecosystems, ecosystems create industries, and industries create global leadership.

Today, India stands at another technological inflection point. AI, quantum computing and space technologies are likely to shape the next half-century, just as semiconductors and software shaped the last. India already possesses significant strengths in software engineering and digital infrastructure. The challenge now is to build globally scalable AI products and platforms. The emergence of DeepSeek showed that technological leadership is not only about building the largest models. It is also about making intelligence cheaper and more accessible. The AI race may ultimately be won by those who make intelligence affordable, ubiquitous and widely available.

India is uniquely positioned to lead this

movement. Just as UPI democratised financial inclusion, India should aspire to democratise intelligence through low-cost, energy-efficient AI models that can serve billions of people.

Quantum computing presents another opportunity. Rather than merely replicating existing approaches, India should focus on reducing the cost of quantum infrastructure and developing practical applications in health care, materials science, climate modelling and drug discovery.

The same should extend to space. The successes of Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan proved that frugal innovation can coexist with world-class ambition. As computing demands escalate globally, concepts such as space-based data centres powered by continuous solar energy are attracting serious attention. India should not merely participate in these conversations; it should lead them. We should ask bold questions about orbital computing infrastructure, space-based AI platforms or even data centres and quantum communication networks.

These ideas may seem futuristic today. But so did semiconductors, smartphones and AI when they first emerged.

### Stopping too soon

The deeper lesson from SCL, ECIL and Simputer is not that India failed, but that it often stopped too soon. We celebrated technological capability before building the ecosystems needed for global scale. The next phase of India's technological journey must combine self-reliance with global ambition. The challenge is no longer merely to invent; it is to build, scale, commercialise and create enterprises that can compete globally.

India has already demonstrated world-class scientific and engineering capabilities. The opportunity now is to translate that ingenuity into globally competitive industries that shape the technologies of the future.

The countries that lead tomorrow may not be those that invent first, but those that scale best. This time, India must do both.

## Context

As India enters the AI, quantum, semiconductor & space race, the real test is no longer invention but the ability to build, scale & commercialise.

## Facts

India built SCL (1970s) & ECIL (1967) - couldn't convert the lead into TSMC/Samsung - scale industry.

The Simputer (1998) anticipated the smartphone but died due to ecosystem and the iPhone took the market.

Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan - frugal innovation can coexist with world-class ambition.

## Analytical Crux

India's technology story is one of premature celebration. It has invented ahead of the world (SCL, ECIL, Simputer) but stopped at the prototype or strategic stage. The others built the ecosystems that turn invention into industry. The decisive variable is not scientific genius but the surrounding ecosystem i.e. capital, policy continuity, supply chains, markets. It includes a shift from inward self-reliance to globally competitive ambition. Pharma, PARAM, Aadhaar and UPI prove India can scale when it builds platforms. On the AI, quantum and space frontier, affordability and scale will matter more than size. The future rewards those who scale best, not those who invent first.

## Verbatim Quotes

“The countries that lead tomorrow may not be those that invent first, but those that scale best. Scale creates ecosystems, ecosystems create industries and industries create global leadership.”

- Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

# Article - 3 : A democracy safe for the World- How to fix a broken system

A Democracy Safe for th...

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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Review Essay

## A Democracy Safe for the World

*How to Fix a Broken System*

SHERI BERMAN

July/August 2026 Published on June 23, 2026



SHERI BERMAN is Professor of Political Science at Barnard College, Columbia University, and the author of the forthcoming book *The Political Consequences of Economic Ideas: Neoliberalism, the Left, and the Fate of Democracy*.

[More by Sheri Berman →](#)

### Context

Today's ailing democracies need repair, not revolution. Citizens' assemblies are valuable reform among many and not a substitute for elections, parties & campaigns.

### Facts

The think tank Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) - US is backsliding "much faster" than "any other democracy in modern times.

Reforms include: ranked-choice voting, fusion voting, proportional representation, civic education and a revival of civil society.

Joseph Schumpeter - defined democracy through competitive struggle for the people's vote.

## Analytical Crux

The debate has moved from "is democracy in trouble?" to "repair or replace"? The remedy cannot carry the whole load, because elections, parties and campaigns do irreplaceable work. Mobilising citizens, aggregating preferences and supplying the political information people. The paradox is that a system meant to deepen participation could depoliticise it, since most people would never be selected and would have no parties or campaigns to engage them. The solution is plural in nature i.e. combine assemblies with electoral, redistricting and campaign-finance reform and a revival of civil society. There is no silver bullet.

## Verbatim Quotes

"Parties serve as the connective tissue between governments and citizens. The current system requires repair, not revolution."

- Sheri Berman

**PSIR PAPER I, 2025:** Karl Popper presents a defence of the open society against its enemies. Elaborate" and "Explain briefly the elite theory of democracy.

**PSIR PAPER II, 2025.** The world currently has been in the throes of a twin process of 'democratic backsliding' and 'democratic backlash'.

**GS PAPER III, 2025:** India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission.

***PSIR PAPER I, 2024:** Deliberative democracy seeks to promote democratic decision making about public issues among the citizens." Discuss*

**PSIR PAPER I, 2024:** "Relative deprivation is a major source of ethnic conflict." Elaborate the statement with relevant examples.

**GS PAPER III, 2024:** What is the present world scenario of intellectual property rights with respect to life materials? Although, India is second in the world to file patents, still only a few have been commercialized. Explain the reasons behind this less commercialization.

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Amit Pratap Singh • PSIR Faculty, ForumIAS

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## O-AWFG 2027

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